

**MINUTES OF THE  
COMMERCE AND WORKFORCE SERVICES  
APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**  
Room 110, West Office Building, State Capitol Complex  
January 18, 2007

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Sen. Jon Greiner, Co-Chairman  
Rep. Michael Morley, Co-Chairman  
Sen. Mark Madsen  
Sen. Ed Mayne  
Sen. Wayne Niederhauser  
Rep. Sylvia Andersen  
Rep. Jim Dunnigan  
Rep. Craig Frank  
Rep. Lynn Hemingway  
Rep. Mark Wheatley  
Rep. Larry Wiley

**STAFF PRESENT:** Stan Eckersley, Fiscal Analyst  
Karen Mitchell, Committee Secretary

Note: A list of handouts and visitors lists will be filed with committee minutes.

Co Chair Rep. Morley called the meeting to order at 2:20 p.m.

**Minutes**

**MOTION:** Sen. Niederhauser moved to approve the minutes of January 10, 2007 and January 17, 2007. The motion passes unanimously with Rep. Dunnigan, Rep. Frank and Rep. Wiley absent for the vote.

Stan Eckersley, Fiscal Analyst, explained the Budget Analysis book for 2007 and presented an overview of the Workforce Services Budget Brief.

The Analyst explained General Assistance and recommended \$7,000,000 in ongoing General Fund and a \$1,000,000 supplemental. The Analyst proceeded to explain Child Care budget and recommended \$3,833,900 in ongoing General Fund.

The Analyst explained the TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) participation rate and recommended \$1,659,000.00 one time General Fund and the supplemental of \$1,659,300.

The Analyst also explained eREP (Electronic Resource and Eligibility Product) software that determines eligibility and calculates benefits for customers seeking temporary assistance. He explained that eREP is being completed in stages with Medicaid being the last phase to be implemented. A comparison was made to other states that are implementing the same project. The Analyst recommended \$3,244,000 one time General Fund which will be matched by federal Medicaid funds.

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The Analyst explained problems with budget format and recommended it for interim study.

The Analyst explained the Eligibility Services Consolidation which will transfer \$16,654,500, 253 workers, 10 vehicles, and 10 leased offices from the Department of Health (DOH) to DWS creating a one stop shop and reduce confusion when applying for services. Savings will come in the form of eliminating duplicate office spaces and a reduction in FTE.

The Analyst presented the Federal Funds Report for Committee approval.

### **Department of Work Services**

Tani Downing, Executive Director, was assisted by Marvin Dodge, Manager Planning and Budget Analysis, in a power point presentation. A handout was provided showing cost allocations for the different departments. An in depth discussion review of the handout and power point presentation followed.

Helen Thatcher and Kathy Link, Assistant Directors, as well as Caroline Kueneman and Dave Baldwin, Program Specialists, answered questions raised by Committee members.

Don Mueller, eREP Project Rep, with the assistance of Wes Woolstenhulme, Information Analyst, presented a slide show explaining eREP benefits. A live demonstration of how the system works was also shown. Several members of their department that were in attendance were recognized for their assistance in the program.

A letter was given to each senator and representative from Allen Korhonen, Deputy Director Department of Health.

Tani Downing and Marvin Dodge discussed Refugee Assistance and requested \$100,000 funding for grants to be given to refugees for education and in turn it would benefit their communities.

**MOTION:** Sen. Mayne moved to approve non-lapsing funds. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Dunnigan, Rep. Frank and Rep. Wiley absent for the vote.

**MOTION:** Sen. Madsen moved to accept analyst recommendations with the following changes: General Assistance ongoing would be dropped from 5 to 3 million and the general assistance one- time supplemental would be raised from 1 to 2 million, and Child Care would be changed to \$3.5 million in ongoing General Fund. Sen. Madsen explained that the motion included all of the Analysts recommendations including Eligibility Worker Consolidation and Federal Funds.

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The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Dunnigan, Rep. Frank and Rep. Wiley absent for the vote.

**Public Comment**

Bill Krem, Director State Associations Local United Ways of Utah and Jeff Sermon, Utah Community Credit Union and United Way, requested one time funding for working families economic development initiative. A handout was provided.

Karen Silver, Salt Lake Community Action Program, requested funding for child care.

Robyn Lepkowitz, Voices for Utah Children, provided the committee with a handout on child care.

MOTION: Rep Wiley moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously, Rep. Morley adjourned the meeting at 5:04 p.m.

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Sen. Jon Greiner, Co-Chair

Rep. Michael Morley, Co-Chair